

REMARKS:

By this Amendment, Applicant cancels without prejudice claims 6 and 95-97, and incorporates the subject matter of claim 6 into independent claim 92. Applicant also further clarifies claims 8, 16, 92, 93 and 98. It is noted that the clarifications are not made for reasons related to patentability and the full range of equivalents should remain in tact. No new matter is introduced into the application, and Applicant reserves the right to file a continuing application(s) on any unclaimed subject matter. Accordingly, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 2-5, 8-16, 19-26, 28, 71, 92-94 and 98-99 are pending.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 16, 19-26, 28, 71, 93-94 and 98-99 are allowed. Claims 6 and 8-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 2, 4-5, 12-15, 92 and 95-97 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Szalajski et al. (U.S. Patent 6,275,487) in view of Bark et al. (U.S. 2002/0077138) and Derryberry et al. (U.S. Patent 6,498,785). Lastly, claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Szalajski in view of Bark et al. and Nishino (U.S. Patent 6,347,083).

The foregoing rejections are respectfully disagreed with, and are traversed below.

In the interest of advancing the prosecution of the subject application and as suggested by the Examiner at page 5 of the outstanding Office Action, the subject matter of dependent claim 6 has been incorporated in independent claim 92. Accordingly, independent claim 92 is in condition for immediate allowance. Claims 2-5 and 8-15 are also in condition for immediate allowance in view of their dependency from allowable claim 92. Thus, all pending claims are either previously allowed over the cited art, or are now allowable in view of the cited art, as recognized

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by the Examiner.

All issues having been addressed, the subject application is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited. A Notice of Allowance is thereby requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted:

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Ann Okrentowich